

15th February, 2005

Dr David Cousins
Executive Director
Consumer Affairs Victoria
GPO Box 4567
Melbourne VIC 3001

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Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd Proposal to CAV

Thank you for meeting with myself and my Co-operative Federation colleagues. We truly appreciated the opportunity to discuss our aspirations with yourself and your officers.

I hope that the proposal we addressed and subsequently left with you, will demonstrate to you the important role that co-operatives can fulfil, both in terms of consumer protection and community capacity building. However, in order to maximize their full potential, co-operatives must engage their members (and the general public) in a lifelong education process that enables them to better understand the co-operative philosophy, values and principles.

The Federation believes that with the support being offered by the UK Co-operative College, it has a rare opportunity to create a comprehensive suite of co-operative education programs for all Victorians. The College is a significant educational institution. It was established in 1919 and throughout the world is recognised as a centre of excellence for co-operative learning. The College is currently working with the European Union and the UK Government.

We are privileged, therefore, that the Co-operative College has chosen to work with CFV as its Australian partner. It is not surprising that the Co-operative College has chosen to work with the Federation. Because of australia.coop, the Federation has a confirmed reputation with the international co-operative movement. We are currently undertaking, for instance, a project with the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) – the peak body for the international co-operative movement. The ICA has more than 230

member organisations from over 100 countries representing more than 760 million individuals.

Finally, I would like to emphasise that development of the proposal requires both the initial and ongoing involvement of individual co-operatives in its management, and to that end we have been discussing this with various co-operatives, including consumer co-operatives.

We look forward to your response to the proposal and to further discussion with you and your officers and will continue to liaise with your Executive Assistant, Elizabeth Forster.

Yours sincerely

Graeme Charles
Deputy Chairman
Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd.